

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOUREN 00404 291252Z

46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 IO-14 OMB-01 PC-04

AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SSO-00

NSCE-00 NIC-01 ACDA-19 SY-04 A-01 OPR-02 EB-11 DRC-01

/198 W

----- 071245

R 290930Z MAY 74

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2578

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MBABANE BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY GABORONE BY POUCH

USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0404

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MZ

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE FORCES WITHDRAWN FROM TWO SETTLEMENTS
IN NORTH

1. ARMED FORCES COMMUNIQUE NO. 27/74 RELEASED MAY 26
ANNOUNCES THAT PORTUGUESE TROOPS HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM
TWO LOCATIONS IDENTIFIED AS ANTADORA IN NORTHERN CABO
DELGADO DISTRICT AND MIANDICA IN NIASA DISTRICT. ACCORDING
TO COMMUNIQUE, WITHDRAWAL WAS BECAUSE THESE PLACES "DO NOT
NOW HAVE ANY ECONOMIC, POLITICAL OR MILITARY INTEREST" TO
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JUSTIFY MILITARY PRESENCE, AND WITHDRAWAL (AS COMMUNIQUE

REMARKS AT LENGTH) PERFECTLY NORMAL UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES.

2. MIANDICA (12 O 24 S., 56'E.) IS IN MOUNTAINOUS AREA OF NORTHERN NIASSA DISTRICT; ANTADORA NOT LISTED ANY OF OUR GAZETTEERS BUT WAS IDENTIFIED TO US BY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER AS LOCATED NORTH OF MESSALO RIVER NEAR CHAI. (THIS WOULD PLACE IT IN AREA OF HEAVY FRELIMO CONCENTRATION SOUTHEAST OF MUEDA, WHERE AIRTAXIS NOT PERMITTED TO FLY AND FROM WHICH MISSILE WHICH RECENTLY STRUCK PLANE CARRYING US MILITARY ATTACHE WAS APPARENTLY FIRED). INTELLIGENCE OFFICER PROFESSED INABILITY EXPAND FURTHER ON DETAILS OR SIGNIFICANCE PORTUGUESE ACTION.

3. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST TIME PORTUGUESE HAVE ANNOUNCED A WITHDRAWAL FROM ANY POINT IN MOZAMBIQUE, AND COMMUNIQUE WAS GENERALLY GREETED BY LOURENCO MARQUES PUBLIC AS MARKING ABANDONMENT OF AREAS TO FRELIMO. IT WOULDN'T TAKE MUCH MORE TO CONVINCE PUBLIC THAT GENERAL MILITARY RETREAT UNDER WAY. (ADMINISTRATIVE POST OF MUIDUMBE, LOCATED IN SAME AREA AS ANTADORA, WAS ABANDONED (WITHOUT PUBLICITY) BY PORTUGUESE SOME YEARS AGO AND PHOTOGRAPHS OF RUINED BUILDINGS ALLEGED TO BE FROM THERE SUBSEQUENTLY APPEARED IN FRELIMO PROPAGANDA; WE KNOW OF NO OTHER CASES IN WHICH PORTUGUESE HAVE ADMITTED TO ABANDONING ANY SPECIFIC POINT OF TERRITORY IN MOZAMBIQUE.)
VAN OSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, PARAMILITARY FORCES, MUTUAL FORCE WITHDRAWALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LOUREN00404
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740134-0851
From: LOURENCO MARQUES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740511/aaaaajhr.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 MAR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORTUGUESE FORCES WITHDRAWN FROM TWO SETTLEMENTS IN NORTH
TAGS: PINS, MZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005